

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that the claim status shown on the Office Action Summary is inconsistent with the body of the Office Action. Based on the body of the Office Action, it is understood that the status of the claims should be as follows:

Claims 1-12 are objected to for formal reasons;
Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e);
Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph;

Claims 2-5 and 8-12 would be allowable if appropriately amended to address the Examiner's formal concerns and the alleged indefiniteness of Claim 4 (the subject matter of Claim 5 is not specifically indicated to be allowable, but is presumed to be considered allowable since the claim is dependent from Claim 2).

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

By this Amendment, Claims 1 and 7 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and the remaining claims have been amended to place them in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:sjk

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